

Dear FCC,

As a television producer, writer, and reporter I am absolutely appalled at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election. Not only is this a prime example of the dangers of media consolidation, it is a total misuse of the public airwaves. It is incumbent upon the FCC to make sure this doesn't happen!!!

Given that the FCC chairman, Mr. Powell, sits in highest judgement of these matters, and given that his part in this is a huge conflict of interest -- it is necessary that he not be involved. Other leaders at the FCC must take a stand.. NOW!

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

With a country involved in a war that a large number of Americans did not want, with a president holding office who many believe "stole" the last election, it's more important that we see more substantive news about issues that matter -- not propaganda coming from Republican Party operatives!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The FCC works for the American people, not for the Republicans!! Go to work!